

Abstract

A quality rating tool used for evaluating health care providers, such as medical groups or hospitals, and a method of creating a quality rating are described. A quality rating tool is organized based on medical groups and contains numerous measures that a health care consumer can use to determine a medical group best suited to the consumer's conditions and needs. The measures include safe dosing of pain killers, use of preferred antibiotics, and overuse of antibiotics in the clinical measures category and member cost pharmacy and member cost emergency room in the affordability measures category. Values in the quality rating for these measures and others are percentiles and, as such, inform the health care consumer of where a particular medical group ranked with respect to a specific measure. The quality rating tool is compiled by an organization having access to large volumes of consumer and physician data and data from numerous other sources such as hospitals and databases of pharmacy, emergency room, professional encounter claims data, as well as consumer complaint databases and survey forms.